Two Firemen Elevated to Captaincy in Los Angeles

By Lawrence F. LaMarr

LOS ANGELES, Cal.—Two promotions affecting Negro members of the Los Angeles fire department were noted this week, when friends of John W. Prayer, 34, and Frank F. LeVigne 28, proudly displayed credentials advancing them to captaincy. LaVigne received his appointment to the fire department in 1935. Four years and 11 months later he finds himself elevated to a captain from the ranks.

Captain LaVigne is married and the father of a small girl. As a member of Engine Co. No. 14 "A" platoon, Fireman LaVigne along with 650 other firemen took the examination for captain. He finished twelfth on the eligible list with a grade of 93.3 per cent. This is the highest grade yet attained by any other Negro. At the age of 28, he is the youngest captain of the Negro group to ever be appointed. In point of service, he is the youngest in years of service to advance to these heights.

Captain Prayer, a member of the Los Angeles fire department since 1931, has made an enviable record since. He is a product of the city school system having attended both Lafayette junior and Jefferson high schools. At the latter he was a member of the football squad in 1925. In 1937 Fireman Prayer took the examination for auto-fireman, passing with an excellent grade.

Along with LaVigne, he took the recent captain's examination in a field of 650 applicants. In this examination he placed No. 21 on the eligible list, with a grade of 91.9 per cent. In 1936 Prayer married Marion B. Boyd, of New York, a childhood sweetheart.

Both of the new fire captains are prominent in church and civic circles. Captain Prayer is head of Truck No. 30 "B" platoon, at 14th and Central Ave. Captain LaVigne is at the 34th and Central fire house.

2 LOS ANGELES FIREMEN GIVEN CAPTAINCIES

Defender 8-17-40
Chicago, Ill.

Win Promotions Through Splendid Records In Attention To Duty

By LAWRENCE F. LaMAR

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One is Not Enough

DEC 21 1940

Promotion of a colored policeman to precinct detective has not received the attention it deserves. If promotions within the District service, as well as appointments to it, were determined solely upon the basis of ability, elevation of Roland Valentine would be only a matter of course.

Washington Tribune

But America does not treat its colored citizens that way, and Washington makes no exception in the American way. So this promotion deserves wide and favorable comment.

Expressions of gratification will probably go forth to Major Brown from organizations and individuals. But it will be unfortunate if he or any other official receives the idea that a single promotion is to be cause for our everlasting gratitude. On the other hand leaders should seize this opportunity to urge that others shall follow on the basis of merit.

Washington D.C.

Officer Valentine's promotion was just that—a reward for merit. Courteous, tactful, and thoroughly efficient, he enjoys the respect of the community he serves. Perhaps no group is more genuinely appreciative of his advancement than the school children to whom he is a friend and, when circumstances warrant a hero.

As he continues to render the splendid type of service which has already been officially recognized, sentiment should be in the making which will permit him to go higher. which will permit him and others in the ranks to go even higher.

Ask Naming Of Negro G-Men

WASHINGTON—(A N P)—When J. Edgar Hoover asks congress for additional money to employ more special agents needed by his department, he is finding plenty of support what with rumors of sabotage, spy rings and threats to the security of the government, says an unofficial spokesman for Uncle Sam.

Daily World - 1-31-40

However when he makes this plea, he will have to consider the use of Negroes in this department, not under the civil service but under his own personal supervision.

A move is afoot to have a definite number of Negroes included and members of the congressional committee hearing the plea are not adverse to the use of Negroes in this highly specialized department of the department of justice.

STARTS AT $3,000

As special agents, the pay scale runs from $3,000 per annum to $6,500 for chief special agent. At present, there are no Negroes employed as such in the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the need of them is seen.

One of the members of the committee expressed the opinion that there must be lots of information available to Negroes which could not be obtained by other agents.

At present there are 750 special agent. In the department of justice, Negroes are used as messengers, clerks and one or two have higher bracket jobs, but the majority of them are in the lower classifications.

At the same time that the plea is being made for the employment of Negroes as special agents, the committee heard another plea on behalf of the custodial workers in the department, of which there are about sixty. All but twelve of these are colored. Their pay is $1,080 per annum and it is being asked that their pay be raised along with the workers in other departments to the $1,200 base as had been done elsewhere.

Funds for this particular raise were asked of the committee which took this and the matter of earmarking funds for the engaging of Negro special agents under consideration.

The secret service of the treasury department has used Negroes to advantage for a number of years, as has the narcotic division of the same department. Only in the department of justice have Negroes never had a chance to show their ability along these lines.

Seek Use of Negroes as Special Agents for FBI

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Colored Police Captain In Chicago, Not In Philadelphia

Tribune 7-25-40 Philadelphia, Pa.

TWO WEEKS from now Chicago will have a colored police captain, the first in the city's history. Although it has had more than one colored lieutenant.

This man will succeed a white captain, who has reached the retirement age, and he will be in command of many more white officers and patrolmen than colored.

We venture the prediction that there will be no resignations from the Chicago police force because of this promotion.

Meanwhile, Philadelphia remains satisfied with one colored sergeant, who never appears in uniform unless he is leading an Elks' parade or his service is requested by the sponsors of some large and distinctly Negro event.

Leaders Back Negroes For G-Men Positions

Daily Worker 1-31-40

WASHINGTON—(ANP)— Strongly urging as a protective measure in the prevention of further crime waves in this country the appointment by J. Edgar Hoover of Negroes as G-men, civic and political leaders are working up interest in this phase of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and are pointing to the increase allowed Mr. Hoover by congress for such additions as he sees fit to make.

Heretofore, the G-men as such have been a lily-white unit, responsible only to Head G-man Hoover. He makes the appointments from the applications, and the necessary qualifications are a college education and accountancy. Negroes hiterto have not been in this category of appointees for some reason, but there is no examination for them to take, they make direct application to the department of justice.

Never before have Negores sought admittance to this department of the governmental law enforcement department, largely because they had little knowledge of the requirements and the methods used in naming appointees.

Now with the nudicial appropriation granted and a specific sum set aside for the naming or hiring of an additional group

SHOULD NEGRO COLLEGE GRADS BE POLICEMEN?

By WILLIAM HENRY HUFF

DEC 15 1940

Chicago Bee

My attention has been called to a number of uncomplimentary quips emanating from race citizens of Indianapolis where Grant W. Hawkins and, I think, two other Negro college graduates were recently certified to the police force of that city after passing the Civil Service examinations by extraordinary marks. Such quips are groundless and brainless.

This writer is very well acquainted with Grant W. Hawkins, one of the gentlemen mentioned by the quips. Hawkins is one of the highest class young men in the Negro race, and ranks equal in class with any other young man in America, regardless of race! He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Indiana at Bloomington, and many are they who would be glad to have earned the marks he made at that most excellent university. He is personally known, well liked, yes, a personal friend to the foremost leaders of the State of Indiana and none of this puffs up his head!

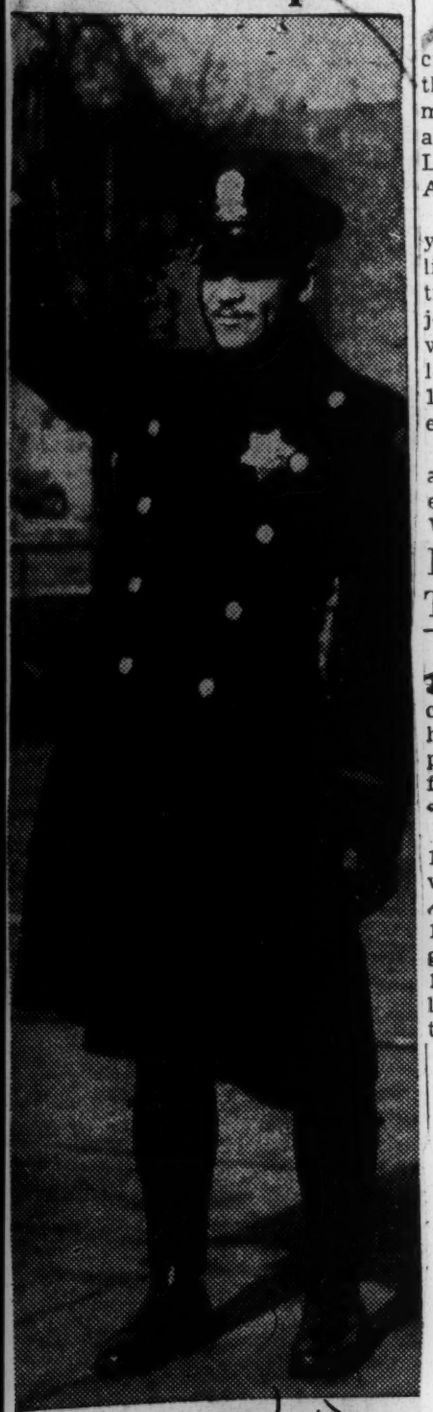
Unfortunately I do not know the other young man quipped about, but if they are of the Hawkins calibre they, too, are making that very necessary sacrifice to place Negro Civil Service men—especially peace officers—in the highest possible bracket. The time is fast approaching—it is just around the corner—when there will be laws, rules and regulations requiring all peace officers to have a college degree or its equivalent. The day of flat footed, ignorant, criminal dodging, graft hunting policemen is far spent and the heavy hammer of doom is already hanging low above their brainless heads! Men already under Civil Service, and whose behavior is passable, should and will, of course, not be disturbed in any of our American cities, but future additions should be men of the highest possible calibre.

Chicago has, to my knowledge, had one Negro bachelor of arts on its police force—John Wade was a graduate from Morehouse college of Atlanta, Georgia. No amount of money could tempt him. His salary was sufficient for his wants and needs. His appearance and demeanor was so lofty that no one thought of attempting to approach him with anything shady. He was a soft-spoken and polished man of a few words, but those few words pierced deeper than would have the bullets in his regulation revolver. He did not have to shoot, he needed only to speak.

There is in Chicago today a Negro police lieutenant who, although he may have no formal college degree, is, nevertheless, a man of education and refinement. "William Middleton can speak the language of any educated man in America. He can hold a conversation on any subject from social art to science, and whoever is fortunate enough to converse with him leaves with an earful of surprises and with far more knowledge than he had before.

I conclude by saying the race throughout America should thank God for Grant W. Hawkins and his college bred associates who have been thoughtful enough to read the handwriting on the wall and who had sense enough to heed what they read. Instead of ridiculing them our clubs, societies, Sunday schools, churches, day schools, lodges and what nots should take up collections of pennies, nickels and dimes to buy and present them with diamond studded stars in token of our appreciation for the great sacrifice they are making to render the race at large the one service we are so sorely in need of in times like these.

Traffic Cop



SPENCER THORNTON
Recently appointed to the Chicago Park District police force, is shown here, in his uniform as he directs traffic along the boulevard. Thornton has been assigned to South Park.—Gushinliere photo.

Chicago To Get First Race Police Captain

Lieut. John Thomas Scott of the city police force learned this week that he will become the first colored man in the city's history to be made a police captain when Capt. George Lynch of the Austin station retires August 7 at the age of 63.

Lieutenant Scott, who will be 60 years old on August 28, heads the list of qualified officers for promotion to captaincy vacancies. He joined the police force in 1907 and was made a sergeant in 1919 and a lieutenant in 1927. He has received 18 creditable mentions and three extra compensations.

Born in Houston, Texas, Lieutenant Scott came to Chicago at an early age. He lives with his wife in Woodlawn.

Negro Police Captain Takes Chicago Post

CHICAGO, (ANP) — Captain John T. Scott, the city's first colored police captain, took over his new duties at Station 4 avenue police station last week in an office filled with well wishers, flowers and telegrams of congratulations. He will have charge of 122 men, about one-fourth of whom are Negroes.

Appointed to the police force in 1907, Capt. Scott became a sergeant in 1919 and a lieutenant in 1927. He is 60 years of age, and lives in Chicago's Woodlawn district with his wife and grandson.

NEGRO POLICE CAPTAIN

THE POLICE COMMISSIONER of Chicago last week appointed John T. Scott as the Windy City's first Negro police captain. Captain Scott had been a member of the police force there for thirty years and has a splendid record in the department.

In New York last week, Police Commissioner Valentine promoted several officers to the rank of inspector, deputy inspector and captain. Since no Negroes were concerned in these promotions, this news was of little interest to the 400,000 Negroes in Greater New York.

However, many who do not know the difference in the systems in New York and Chicago have expressed the opinion that New York is far behind the Windy City and should have a Negro captain in command of a Harlem precinct. As much as The New York Age would like to see a Negro police captain or captains, the matter will have to go through regular civil service procedure since up to and including the rank of captain, policemen must take civil service examinations for all promotions. Once having reached the rank of captain, all subsequent promotions are at the discretion and will of the Police Commissioner.

Lieutenant Samuel J. Battle is the senior member of the New York Police Department and has more than a quarter of century of service to his credit. He has been a lieutenant for almost a decade now and is on the list for captain, but until vacancies occur he cannot be promoted. He can however, be designated as "acting captain" and placed in command of a precinct. Acting Lieutenants Chisholm and Kline are in realtiy sergeants and cannot be promoted until their names are reached on the civil service list.

Since all promotions are by civil service, then, it behooves Negro policemen to study and take promotion examinations and not be content to be just plain patrolmen, sergeants or lieutenants.

Chicago To Have First Negro Police Captain

Courier Nov 30-40 Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHICAGO, July 18. (ANP)—Lieut. John Thomas Scott of the city police force, learned this week that he will become the first colored man in the city's history to be made a police captain when Capt. George Lynch of the Austin station retires Aug. 7 at the age of 63.

Lieut. Scott, who will be sixty years old on Aug. 28, heads the list of qualified officers for promotion to captaincy vacancies. He joined the police force in 1907 and was made a sergeant in 1919 and a lieutenant in 1927. He has received 18 creditable mentions and three extra compensations.

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NEGRO SWORN IN AS CAPTAIN OF CHICAGO POLICE

Tribune 8-11-40 Chicago, Ill.

Chicago's first Negro police captain, John Thomas Scott of the Stanton avenue station, was sworn in yesterday in Commissioner Allman's office in the presence of Commissioner Allman, Mayor Kelly, and 25 south side business men.

The oath was administered by Donald Hinckley, chief clerk in the police secretary's office. Herman E. Moore, recently appointed federal judge for the Virgin Islands, was among those present.

Scott was appointed to the police force in 1907. He became a sergeant in 1919, and a lieutenant in 1927. He is 59 years old and lives at 6428 Evans avenue with his wife, Margaret.

1ST NEGRO POLICE CAPTAIN WILL BE SWORN IN TODAY

Daily Tribune Chicago, Ill.

Lieut. John Thomas Scott of the Stanton avenue police will be sworn in this morning as Chicago's first negro police captain, Commissioner Allman announced yesterday. Lieut. Scott was appointed to the police force in 1907, became a sergeant in 1919 and a lieutenant in 1927.

He has received 18 creditable mentions and three extra compensations. In his police career he has killed two bandits and wounded several others.

His appointment will fill a vacancy left by the retirement of Capt. George Lynch of the Austin station. Scott has not been assigned to a post yet, however, Allman said. Scott was born in Houston, Tex., in 1880. He and his wife, Margaret, live at 6428 Evanston avenue.

7 South Side Officers Get $3,000 For Bravery

Defender 8-17-40 Chicago, Ill.

Seven Chicago policemen who are attached to fourth district (Stanton Avenue) station under Captain Michael Lahart, drew a total of close to $3,000 in special award funds the past week, for acts of bravery executed in line of duty.

The latest awards, all of which went to Stanton avenue police, were presented Wednesday in offices of Captain John Prendergast, of the uniform police division, by J. P. Smith, vice president of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea company. Nine awards, two of them to Stanton avenue policemen, were made July 26 at the Chicago Civil Service commission offices.

Awards paid Wednesday totaled $2,500 and were made to five officers, each of whom was handed an A. and P. check for $500. The policemen honored were Sergeants Robert Harness and John W. Cogger, and Officers Patrick Gilhooley, Albert McGruder and George W. Butler. Cogger and Gilhooley are white.

These policemen were cited for meritorious service for their speedy apprehension of two men who shot and killed Steve Broscoe, manager of an A. and P. store at 3654 Wentworth avenue, on March 7, during a hold-up in which $147 was stolen.

The bandits, George Jones and Lee Van Woods, both of 4733 Michigan avenue, were trailed to their home through clever detective work on part of the officers, and captured the following day. Both were subsequently sentenced to 99 years.

The citations made last Friday by the civil service board of awards went to Officers John Thomas and Clarence Jones, two of the nine men so honored out of 45 called down to the commission offices to receive commendation for meritorious service in line of duty.

Officers Thomas and Jones were given extra compensation of $180 each and were presented with certificates of honorable mention. Jones further received an increase in salary.

Officer Thomas won his laurels only after looking down the barrel of a would-be bandit's pistol and hearing the weapon snap twice in his face, while a second thug menaced him with a sawed-off shotgun. The policeman killed one of the desperadoes. The other escaped.

This incident occurred on February 19, 1939, when Jones accosted the two armed men at Thirty-fifth and State streets. Brushing aside the weapon of the nearest bandit before the man could pull the trigger a third time, Officer Thomas drew his own gun and shot James Wright, of 3602 Wentworth avenue, dead in his tracks. Wright, it later developed, was an ex-convict. Identity of the man with the shotgun was never learned.

Officer Jones was cited for shooting it out with a man who held up an insurance collector in the building where the policeman lived, in the fall of 1939. Jones pursued the bandit down Michigan avenue, and after a three-block chase, shot and killed him.

FIRST NEGRO POLICE CAPTAIN

Chicago Bee Chicago Ill. 8-18-40

Chicago (Ill.) Tribune

John Scott, City's 1st Negro Police Captain, Takes Post

Capt. John T. Scott, the city's first Negro police captain, took charge of the Stanton avenue station yesterday. His office was filled with flowers, congratulatory telegrams, and well wishers. Capt. Scott, who will be in charge of 122 men, about a quarter of whom are Negroes, was appointed to the police force in 1907. He became a sergeant in 1919 and a lieutenant in 1927. Capt. Scott is 60 years old and lives at 6428 Evans avenue.

SEP 3 1940

Chicago's first Negro police captain, John Thomas Scott, (center) as he takes oath of office in Commissioner James P. Allman's office Saturday. Commissioner Allman pins on his star, while Mayor Edward J. Kelly and Civil Service Commissioner Wendell E. Green smile their approval. Also pictured, standing to the left of Commissioner Green, is Civil Service Commissioner, John T. Brennan, vice president of the Chicago Board of Trade. Captain Scott is also the first Negro in the world to be elevated to the rank of captain of police. —Gushiniere Photo.

JOHN T. SCOTT TAKES OATH; ON JOB 33 YEARS

Chicago Bee Aug 18, 1940

Induction History Making Event

Chicago Ill

By MARION M. BAXTER

History was made in Chicago last Saturday when former Lieut John Thomas Scott, veteran member of Chicago's police force, was administered the oath of office which made him the city's first Negro captain of police.

The epoch-making event, which took place in Commissioner of Police Allman's office in City Hall, was witnessed by citizens from all walks of life. Notables high in civic, professional, religious, business and political circles, and members of the police department, crowded the commissioner's office for the induction ceremonies.

On Force for 33 Years

Captain Scott, formerly assigned to Stanton Avenue police station, vacated his post as lieutenant there last Wednesday. He has been a member of the police force for 33 years, was made a sergeant in 1919. In 1927 he became a lieutenant, and has received 18 creditable mentions and three extra compensations during his tenure of service.

"Captain Scott's record has been unblemished," Mayor Edw. Kelly stated following administering of the oath of office. "He has been a good policeman, conscientious and loyal to his commission. I am proud of his elevation, and Chicago joins with you and me in wishing for him, and his family, good health, long life and happiness."

May Go to Stanton Ave.

Although it was not officially stated where Captain Scott will be in command, it is believed that he will assume captaincy at Stanton avenue. He is now on a 20-day leave of absence.

Many are of the opinion that the recently vacated post of captain at Austin avenue station, created through the compulsory retirement of Capt. George Lynch, will be filled by Stanton Avenue's Captain Michael Lahart.

Beaming with pardonable pride, the newly inducted police captain in commenting on his promotion, stated:

"Wife Due All Credit"

"My motto has always been to 'give the best I had.' Today that 'best' has returned to me. But," he added, "all the credit is due Mrs. Scott, my wife. She has been my inspiration, my incentive. She has always been a real pal . . . has been a policeman the same as I. She deserves the credit for all the good things which have come to me."

Chicago Bee 8-18-40

Captain and Mrs. Scott have been married for 33 years, and reside at 6428 So. Evans.

"We were married when I joined the police force," he stated. "She has been a real policeman's wife. Today's ordeal was too much for her, however," he explained when questioned as to whether she would witness his induction into the captaincy.

Notables at Ceremonies

"Mrs. Scott has borne the brunt of it all. Our telephone has been busy, constantly, since news of my impending promotion was published a month ago. I left her in tears, this morning," he added. Chicago Ill.

Among those witnessing induction ceremonies were Federal Judge Herman E. Moore, Anthony Overton, publisher of the Chicago Bee, Alderman Earl B. Dickerson, 2nd ward; Committeeman William Dawson, Senator Marovitz, Alderman Jno. T. Kells, George Arthur, Patrick Prescott, Robert R. Taylor, Chicago Housing Authority;

A. L. Foster and Frayser T. Lane, of the Urban League; James Knight, Oscar Brown, W. T. Brown, Channing Tobias, national secretary of the YMCA, of New York City; Mrs. Ada McKinley, Mrs. Ruth Jackson, principal of Colman school; Miss Kathryn M. Johnson;

Dr. U. S. Robinson, pastor of Carey Temple; Dr. A. Alfred Watts, pastor of Greater Bethesda; the Rev. A. J. Carey, Jr., pastor of Woodlawn A. M. E. church; the Rev. Joseph M. Evans, pastor of Metropolitan Community Center; Horace Cayton, J. Wesley Jones, W. Ellis Stewart, George Hutchinson, Council of Negro Organizations;

Dr. M. O. Bousfield; Civil Service Commissioners Wendell E. Green, Jos. P. Geary, president, and John E. Brennen; Henry C. Ferguson, George T. Kersey; Captain of Police Eugene Barry; William Franklin and Eugene McCoy, 5th district police officers; Robert Harness and John Wahl, of Stanton avenue;

Robert A. Cole, Dr. John W. Lawlah, medical director of Provident hospital; Representative Charles J. Jenkins, Bryant Hammon, John Sengstacke, Chicago Defender, J. Tipper, Chicago World; Charles Murray, Roscoe Kolliner, South Central Real Estate Board; Dr. A. C. Falls, Nathan K. Mc- the Chicago Bee, Sherman Briscoe Ira Williams, Claude Bar- of the Defender, and A. N. Fields nett, Associated Negro Press; Mrs. Nannie M. Williams, Mrs. W. E. Greene, Marion Baxter of the Courier.

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Chicago Bee Chicago Ill. 8-18-40

Chicago (Ill.) Tribune

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Dr. M. O. Bousfield; Civil Service Commissioners Wendell E. Green, Jos. P. Geary, president, and John E. Brenner; Henry C. Ferguson, George T. Kersey; Captain of Police Eugene Barry; William Franklin and Eugene McCoy, 5th district police officers; Robert Harness and John Wahl, of Stanton avenue;

Robert A. Cole, Dr. John W. Lawlah, medical director of Provident hospital; Representative Charles J. Jenkins, Bryant Hammon, John Sengstacke, Chicago Defender, J. Tipper, Chicago World; Charles Murray, Roscoe Kolliner, South Central Real Estate Board;

Dr. A. G. Falls, Nathan K. McGill, Ira Williams, Claude Barnett, Associated Negro Press; Mrs. Nannie M. Williams, Mrs. W. E. Greene, Marion Baxter of the Chicago Bee, Sherman Briscoe of the Defender, and A. N. Fields of the Courier.

Lt. Scott Becomes City's First Race Police Captain

Defender 8-17-40 Chicago, Ill.

Returns Home

NOV 30 1940

Nearly 100 outstanding citizens crowded into the office of Police Commissioner Allman Saturday morning to witness the swearing in of John T. Scott as Chicago's first Race police captain.

Mayor Edward J. Kelly, who participated in the induction ceremonies, addressed the group saying:

"Captain Scott is a hard worker and a fine officer. He was elevated to this post because he merited it. There is no discrimination in Chicago because of a man's creed or color. We are all proud of Captain Scott and his splendid record as a police officer."

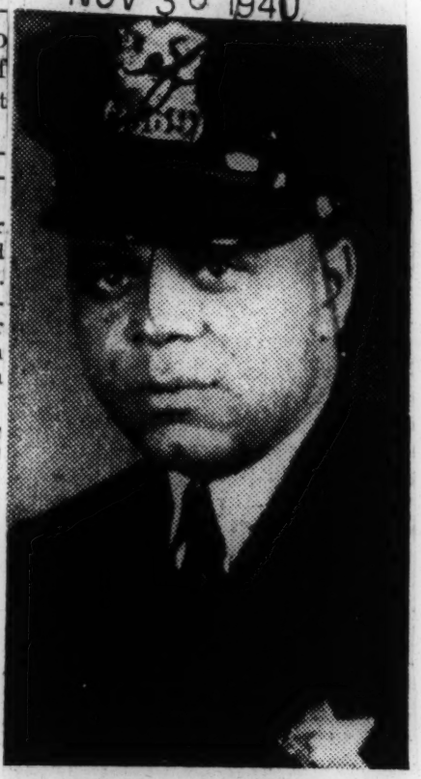
Captain Scott, immaculately attired, was congratulated by Race citizens in all walks of life following the induction. He smiled modestly and said, "I am glad that I have been elevated because it is an honor to my race."

Captain Scott, 60, became a member of the police force in 1907, became a sergeant in 1919 and appointed lieutenant in 1927. He has received 18 creditable mentions and three extra compensations for bravery. He has killed two desperate bandits and wounded several others during his career as a policeman.

Although Mrs. Scott was not present for the induction ceremonies, the captain says she has been at his side all the way. "My success as a policeman is due largely to the fine support which my wife has given me. We married a few months after I was placed on the force. Ever since that time she has taken an active interest in my work."

One of the most unusual scenes at the ceremonies were congratulations extended by Judge Herman E. Moore, first Chicagoan to become a federal judge and Dr. M. O. Bousfield, first Chicagoan to become a member of the school board.

The appointment of Captain Scott ends a long fight which has been waged by The Chicago Defender and civic organizations. It is believed that Captain Scott will be placed at Stanton avenue police station.



GEORGE WATERS

Well known Chicago policeman who spent his vacation in Detroit and Milwaukee the guest of friends and relatives. Officer Waters is assigned to Stanton avenue station.

CAPTAIN SCOTT IN CHARGE AT STANTON AVE.

Assumed Duties on September 1

SEP 6 1940

By MARION M. BAXTER

(Picture on page 8)

Chicago's first Negro police captain took command of Stanton avenue station Sunday at 12:01 a.m. By Monday his office was banked with flowers, congratulatory messages and telegrams were pouring in and a stream of well-wishers passed in and out to pay tribute to a man whose life exemplified service to his city.

That man is Captain John Thomas Scott, veteran member of Chicago's police force, who rose from the ranks of rookie policeman in 1907 to make history as the first member of his race to become captain of police in Chicago.

On Police Force 33 Years

Captain Scott has been a member of the city's police force for 33 years. Appointed in 1907, he became sergeant in 1919 and a lieutenant in 1927. Ten years of that time has been spent at Stanton avenue, where he is now in command of 122 men, about one-fourth of whom are Negroes.

When he was elevated to the rank of captain on Aug. 10, the BEE predicted that he would assume captaincy at Stanton avenue, following the compulsory retirement of Captain George Lynch, which left a vacancy at the Austin street station. It was assumed that this vacancy would be filled by Captain Michael Lahart, formerly in command at Stanton avenue. Captain Lahart is now on a sick leave.

Mayor Kelly Pays Tribute

"A good policeman, with an unblemished record," was the tribute Mayor Edward J. Kelly paid Captain Scott following the history making ceremonies which made him the first of his race to become captain of police here.

He has received 18 creditable mentions and three extra compensations during his tenure of service. When interviewed Tuesday morning, Captain Scott stated:

Continue to Give "Best"

"My motto has always been to 'give the best.' Citizens of the community may be assured that I shall continue to give my 'best'. They will have my wholehearted cooperation in a community-wide drive to reduce crime in the district."

Captain Scott is 60 years old, lives in Woodlawn with his wife, to whom he gives sole credit for any honor accorded him. "She has been my inspiration . . . . a real policeman's wife," he stated. "She's happy for me, and doubly so, because now theres no more shifts," he smilingly added.

Negro Fingerprint Expert in Charge of Des Moines Office

* * * * * * * * * * *

By Everett Wadsworth

DES MOINES, Iowa. — Iowa is noted for its tall corn "iron men" football players. It is also famous because Lucius Ashby, Polk County superintendent of the bureau of identification, has rounded out his fifth year as the only Negro holding such office in the United States.

There are Negro assistants, deputies and helpers in finger printing departments thruout the nation, but Ashby is the only one in complete charge, according to Al Dunlap, publisher of the official Detective magazine and official statements from leading law enforcement agencies. Polk county with a population of 160,000 has about 9,000 Negroes.

Promoted in 1939

He was appointed in January, 1933, by Charles F. Keeling, then sheriff, as assistant to William Bailey, identification bureau head. Vane B. Overhiff, present sheriff, succeeded Keeling and January 1, 1939 Ashby was appointed to his present position in place of Harold Gesell who was transferred to the state bureau of investigation which recommended the Negro to the job.

Since 1933 he has finger printed about 5,000 prisoners. Among the millions of prints in the files of G-Men's offices in Washington, D. C., there are the 5,000 he has recorded. Acclaimed two years ago by the Iowa FBI as the best criminal identification photographer in the Midwest, Ashby has proved a qualified examiner of questionable documents and an expert in court testimony.

Former Football Star

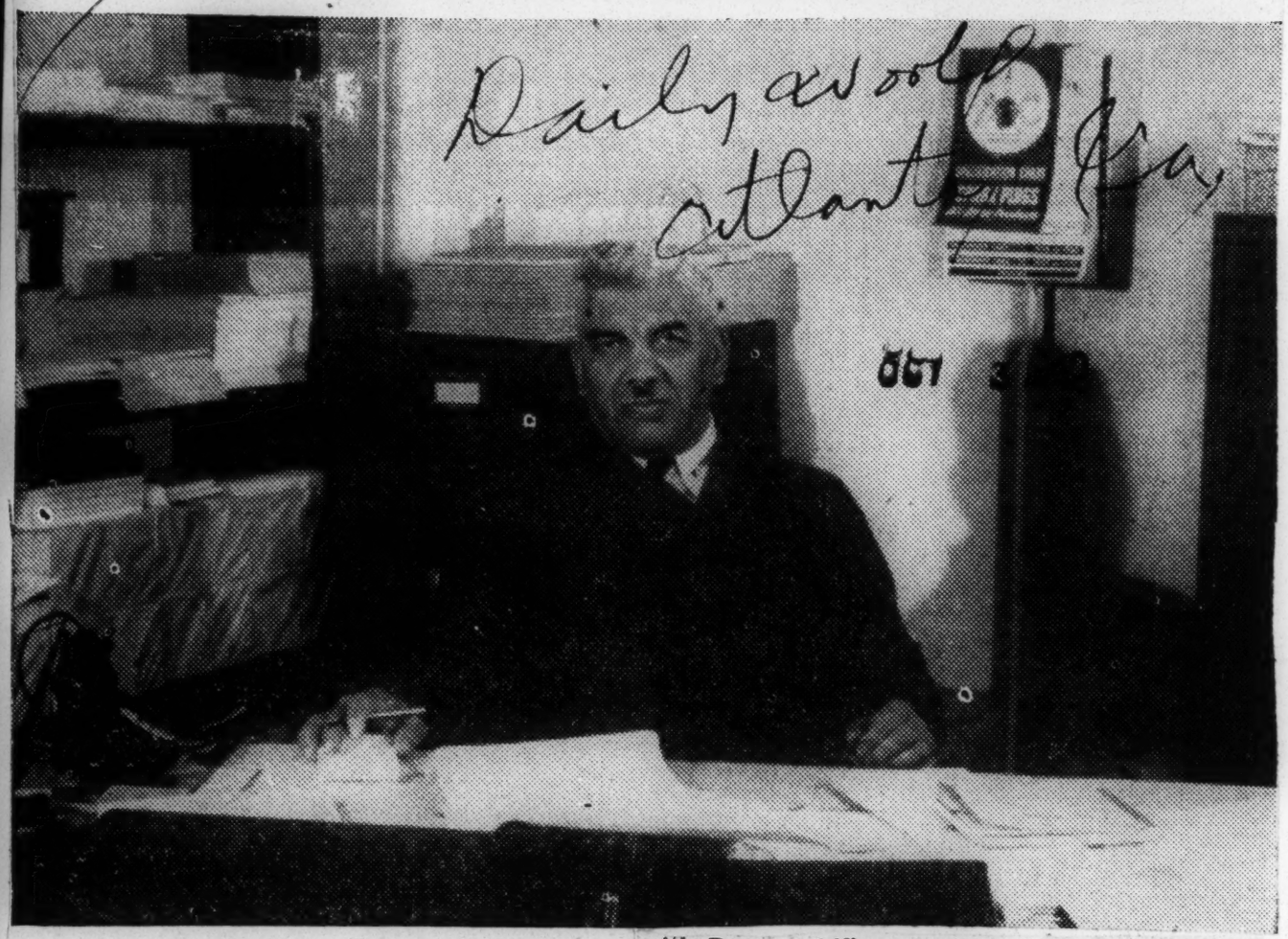
In telling of his outstanding cases, which were murder trials, he readily stated, "but, we lost both of them!" However, more than 30 forgers were convicted in district courts last year by his testimonies on handwriting — a record to be proud of.

A former East high all-state football hero of pre-war days, Ashby was assistant coach at Penn college, Oskaloosa, Iowa, for three years, and also served as boxing instructor of South Dakota.

During the World War, he was regiment supply sergeant. He is a member of the American Legion and the Elks lodge. He is married and the father of three children.

"Know your job and try to improve upon it" is Ashby's philosophy of life. "If you can't make good in one thing, step out and try something else, but don't be just average—Try to excel. Above all, don't high hat—always be respectful of superiors and learn all you can about your work"—is the simple advice of the 44-year-old law enforcement chief to all aspirants.

Supply Sergeant In Patrol Department



DES MOINES, Iowa—(SNS)—

A Negro supply sergeant in the patrol department of the State of Iowa, is Harry E. Wilson, who was appointed in March, 1939, by Earl Miller, secretary of state.

As a supply sergeant, Mr. Wilson furnishes all supplies for the highway department which includes the dispensing of first aid supplies, uniform for the patrolmen and stationery supplies.

Mr. Wilson is a native of San Diego, Cal. He has lived in Des Moines for 26 years, during which time he has been active in fraternal, religious and political organizations.

The former exalted ruler of the Hawkeye Lodge of the order of Elks, Mr. Wilson is also affiliated with the Maple Street Baptist church, a former member of the Committee of Eight, the Des Moines branch of the N. A. A. C. P., and chairman of the East Des Moines Republican club, a member of the advisory committee of the Republican State Central Committee.

Prior to his position at the state house, Mr. Wilson served for eleven years with the Manhattan Oil Company as a cost accountant; and, for eight years the City of Des Moines, as general material foreman.

He is a past officer in the World War, retiring with Reserve Officers, commissioned Captain of Infantry. He served overseas with the 366th Infantry of the 92nd Division.

He and his wife reside in East Des Moines, at 1029 E. Fifteenth street.

Daily World
Atlanta Ga
OCT 3 1940
OCT 3 1940

Wichita Policeman Retires From Force

WICHITA, Kans., Jan. 12—Emerson McAdams was named this week to succeed Jeff Thompson on the local police force. Officer Thompson, 67, who has served the department since 1902, was retired. He could have retired in 1927, but chose to serve until now.

Twelve Pass Police Examinations; Seventeen Okeh In Fire Quizzes

Daily World 3-20-40. Atlanta, Ga.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—(SNS)—Vacancies in the Colored Division of Police and the Fire Departments unfilled for months have caused lots of criticism of the administration by Colored citizens and voters. Negroes sought to learn why these vacancies were unfilled and was told few Colored men tried for the places and they failed to pass the examinations.

January 18, 18 young men took the examination for places in the Police Department. Of the 18, 12 passed; 31 took examinations to be members of the Fire Department. Of that number 17 passed.

The successful aspirants in the Police Department are in order of their standing, William Hughes, 1; Carl Ray 2; Robert Kilgore 3; Oliver Norton 4—(Norton was removed because he said he had not been arrested and it was proved he had been)—Jesse McDowell 5; Ed Whitley 6; Virgil Rowan 7; Everett Martin 8; Lawrence Tolbert 9; James Huggins 10; Jackson Willis 11, and Frank Meredith 12.

Those successful in the firemen's examination—some of whom also took the police exaninations—are William Hughes 1, who was also first in police exams; Samuel Trice 2; Watson Rhodes 3; William Ellis 4; Albert Huggins 5; Robert Kilgore 6; James Thompson 7; (cut because he gave incorrect information); Oliver Norton 8 (removed because he gave incorrect information); James McDowell 9; Jesse Taylor 10; Virgil Rowan 11; Everett Martin 12; Joseph Montgomery 13; Lawrence Tolbert 14; James Huggins 15; Jackson Willis 16, and Frank Meredith 17.

Col. Sam McMeekin, Director of Safety is quoted as saying he expects to see new cops from this list on duty by Derby Day. They will have to go to the Police School 6 weeks. It could not be learned how many will be appointed. Rumor has it certain Colored politicians are trying to get wellknown underworld characters, who happened to pass, appointed as Police officers! Col. McMeekin may be trusted to block such a thing. If there is any job that calls for character with a big "C.. it is that of a Policeman.

Police Grads to Do Social Work

BALTIMORE

The women graduates of the Baltimore Police School, who have formed the Co-operative Service Association, met with the men graduates on Wednesday, at 2128 Madison Avenue.

The group was addressed by Marse S. Callaway. The women's association is seeking to develop interest in civic, social, and community problems in an effort to gain practical experience in social work.

Officers of the women's club are:

Mrs. Olga Clark, president; Mrs. Obella Allen, vice-president; Mrs. Essie Jackson, secretary; Miss Gertrude Wheaten, assistant secretary; Mrs. Katherine Satterfield, financial secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Rosa Lee Gilbert, publicity agent, and Mrs. Louise Wilson, chaplain.

Lloyd Johnson and Edward Wharton are president and vice-president, respectively, for the men's organization.

White Man with Inferior Rating Gets Police Job

BALTIMORE

One of the twenty-two probationary policemen recently appointed received a mark of 66, which mark is five points lower than that received by William A. Hunt, a colored applicant, who was not appointed, the AFRO learned this week.

Police Commissioner Robert F. Stanton explained that this man, Hubert Rumney, white, had received 78 in a previous examination, but was turned down because a physical test indicated heart trouble. A re-examination was said to have resulted in a favorable report on his condition.

The appointee was also said to have had an excellent reputation as a member of the fire department, and this was believed to have carried much weight with the commissioner in naming him.

Made "One or Two Jumps"

Questioned, Thursday, relative to the recent appointment of twenty-two white probationary officers, the commissioner explained that most of the men were picked straight down the list and he made only one or two jumps in selecting officers who had lower ratings.

"When I look at the list I don't know whether they are white or colored, as the names do not designate," he said in showing the list of more than 1300 names to the reporter. "If no colored men were appointed it was because their rating was not high enough."

An investigation did reveal, however, the following facts, which speak for themselves.

The first fifteen men named, rated in the first twenty on the list. The next four men appointed ranked among the first thirty on the list. The three men to complete the list of twenty-two appointed ranked from twenty-nine to 131 on the list.

1940

SERG'T. SMITH FOUND GUILTY OF ASSAULT

Guardian 8-17-40
Boston, Mass.

Sergt. George F. Smith of the Warren Avenue police station was found guilty Monday afternoon of assault on Harold C. Jones, one of the three Jones brothers, after a trial of four days in Municipal Court.

Twice during Monday's hearing Smith collapsed and had to be led from the courtroom. He was attended by Dr. Anna Parker, courthouse physician, who reported to the court that the sergeant was suffering from a severe form of heart trouble. The court offered to postpone the trial but the officer's counsel said that Smith had been under great strain the past four days and that any further delay or suspense would be worse than to proceed.

Judge Brackett found that Smith had laid hands on Jones though Jones had a right to remain on the sidewalk and that no force, however slight, was justified under the circumstances shown by the evidence. "Police should remember," he added, "they are not justified in using more force than is necessary under the circumstances."

Judge Brackett found no evidence that Jones was under the influence of liquor or that he was guilty of disturbance of the peace. "In the absence of any offense," Judge Brackett said "Jones had a right to stay where he was. He saw fit to stand on his strict legal rights and that being so Sgt. Smith had no right to lay a hand on him." Guardian

On the charge of simple assault on Jones, Judge Brackett fined Smith $5. Smith appealed. 8-17-40

The judge dismissed charges of assault and battery on Vernon G. H. Black and of failure to give Black a reason for Black's arrest on July 24.

The judge commended Smith's record as that of a loyal, zealous and courageous officer but added that he had no right to put his hands on Jones even though it was three o'clock in the morning. Boston, Mass.

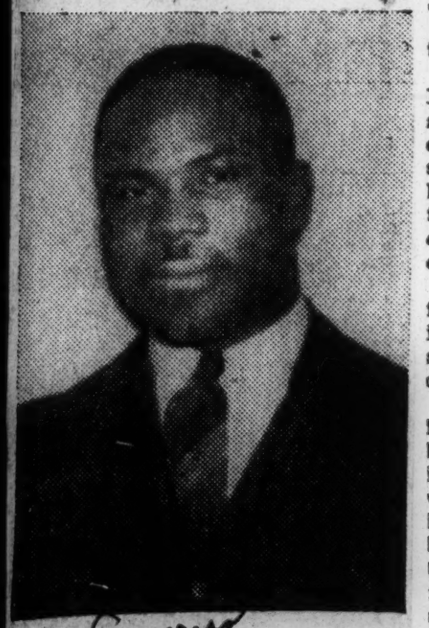
2 Reported Successful In Police Exam

It is understood that two of 12 colored applicants for police department jobs passed the mental examination last Friday; a third failed in the examination, while nine of the number failed to pass inspection, which is the first test. Those said to have passed are Jesse Gray and McNair. They will be given a physical examination which they must pass before being eligible for assignment to classes.

No Negro police officers have been made here in several years. There are now 12 uniformed colored officers and nine colored detectives in the service. There has been as high a number as 18 uniformed colored officers and 12 detectives.

There was also for many years a Negro lieutenant, the late Detective Ira Cooper. A white sergeant was promoted to fill the vacant lieutenancy created by his death.

New Officer



JESSE GRAY, 25 years old, of 2673 Lucas avenue, former Lincoln U. student and Vashon High School graduate, who was the only member of twelve colored candidates to successfully pass the examination to become a member of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. He will enter the student class Mar. 4th. Gray has been an elevator operator at Police Headquarters about a year. He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

TOLD MEN TO PICK UP BEER BOTTLE HE THREW AT THEM

8-10-40 Courier

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 8—St. Louis' Negro police force already undermanned proportionately, was cut down another notch Thursday, August 1, when the Police Board, after hearing charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, preferred by four race men ordered Patrolman Clyde Gardner, member of the local force since 1935, suspended for six months without pay. Gardner, who is married and has a child, is 35 years old. Pittsburgh, Pa.

Complaining witnesses were Sidney Smith, 4247-a Labadie; Patterson Gearin, 4257-w Garfield; Frank Rhoda, 4231 Labadie, and Hurley Johnson, 3137 Lambdin.

Smith said that Gardner told them, "Now try and get my job."

According to the charges filed Patrolman Gardner, off duty but still wearing his uniform, came out of the Ville Taproom, popular sepia rendezvous on the Westside, beer bottle in hand, threw the bottle on the sidewalk and then brdered one of the men standing outside to pick it up.

The men were slow to act. In fact, they had no idea of picking it up as some of the beer had splattered on the trousers of one of the men.

Officer Gardner, it is narrated in the charges, took off his service belt, containing his pistol, threw it in a waiting taxi ,and then invited any and all of them to fight if they didn't like it. His challenge was refused by the men, so Gardner got in the taxi and drove off. The offended men immediately contacted Tenth District police officers, who went to Gardner's home and placed him under arrest.

A police doctor said that Gardner was not intoxicated, but white Tenth District officers said he was unsteady on his feet when arrested.

BEAUTY IS CONSTABLE

Wide Armstrong 2-17-40

Mrs. Glesby Mason, believed to be the first woman constable in New Jersey, being inducted into office by Township Clerk George Garon at Lakewood, N.J. She was a frequent beauty contest winner in Jersey.

STATE'S FIRST WOMAN CONSTABLE

Mrs. Glesby Mason, charming young New Jersey matron, who is believed to be the first colored woman constable in New Jersey, is shown here as she is sworn into office in Lakewood, N. J., by Township clerk George Garon. She has won several beauty contests in the state.

City Votes Award For Widow, Children Of Patrolman John Holt

Olive R. Holt, widow of heroic Policeman John A. Holt whose life was laid as a sacrifice upon the altar of his duty to uniform and city when he was killed February 12 through a tragic accident by two brother officers who mistook him for a burglar, will receive an award of $2,000 from the City of New York it was decided last week by the Board of Estimate.

Police Commissioner Valentine had announced previously that Mrs. Holt and the couple's three small children would receive "every consideration." Funds also will be awarded from the Police Relief Fund. It is believed that the family will receive a pension of half the policeman's $2000 yearly salary.

The Thirtieth Precinct

Law enforcing agencies have followed a policy of paying very little attention to matters involving "Negroes only." Especially is this true in police precincts where there are no Negro officers.

Needless to say the percentage of crime cleaned up in the 28th and 32nd precincts is relatively high, since in them there is not only a number of crack and enthusiastic Negro patrolmen and detectives, but three efficient lieutenants.

Things are different in the 30th precinct, which includes the heavily Negro - populated Sugar Hill area. There is not a single Negro officer in any capacity, and as much as we regret having to say it, the records show that the police are less diligent there than elsewhere in curbing violence and solving "mysteries."

While it is true a policeman ought to be equally interested in checking crime and bringing criminals to justice regardless of where he is stationed, this, unfortunately, is not the case.

It was Charlie Barts who worked overtime to investigate the mysterious death of a woman found dead several weeks ago in 119th Street. He didn't let up until the case was solved, and what the authorities listed as "death from natural causes," Barts unearthed as murder. Few white officers would have taken such interest.

Last week two women plunged to their deaths on Sugar Hill, one at 727 St. Nicholas Avenue and the other at 409 Edgecombe Avenue. Both occurred under circumstances so mysterious that residents in the neighborhood have expressed grave doubt as to whether they were actually suicides as the police say, or were homicides. At the present time, we don't know.

We urge the Captain in command at the 30th precinct to assign a detail of his best and most conscientious men to both cases so that when they are finally closed, there will be no question as to the actual cause of death. And if he hasn't a detail to put on the case, we suggest that he turn the facts in the cases over to Detectives Barts, Webber, Boyden or Robinson of the 32nd precinct, or Johnson, Roberts, Cusberth, or Knowles from the 28th.

Body of Late Patrolman John Holt Carried By

Born on the shoulders of six stalwart members of the Police Honor Legion, the coffin bearing the body of late Patrolman John Holt is shown on its way to hearse, Friday. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and Police Commissioner Valentine were among dignitaries who attended the services. Because he was slain in the line of duty, he was given an Inspector's funeral. Services were held Friday at St. Philip's

HIGHEST HONOR GIVEN OFFICER SLAIN IN ERROR

NEW YORK—An inspector's funeral, the highest honor the police department can bestow, will be given Patrolman John A. Holt, who was shot to death, Monday night by two fellow officers who mistook him for a burglar.

Holt's widow and three young children probably will receive an initial minimum award of $6,500, to be followed by all the pension rights accruing to them as the surviving kin of a patrolman who died in the performance of his duty.

Commissioner Valentine said Holt died in service even though he joined voluntarily the chase for the robber for whom he was mistaken by his two fellow officers. They saw him gun in hand, on a roof near his home and shot him.

Holt's pay was $3,000 a year. His widow probably will be voted an annual pension of $1,500. She will also receive $500 for funeral expenses. The police relief department will decide at a meeting whether to pay her a sum equal to a full year's salary.

Two More Negro Police Sergeants Appointed

On Monday two more Negroes appeared on the streets of Harlem in the uniforms of sergeants following their promotion by Police Commissioner Lewis J. Valentine, Thursday evening, at Madison Square Garden. They are left to right above Carl A. Jordan and John W. Brown.

Sergeant Jordan is stationed at the 32nd Precinct where as a patrolman he was a member of the Juvenile Aid Bureau Unit 3 commanded by Acting Lieutenant Lewis J. Chisholm.

Sergeant Brown is stationed at the 28th Precinct and formerly was a patrolman at the 32nd Precinct.

The promotion of these two Negro officers now brings the total number of sergeants to five, two of whom are now acting lieutenants. The highest ranking officer is Lieutenant Samuel J. Battle.

SLAIN BY RADIO POLICE WHILE PURSUING BURGLAR

Johnny Holt Meets Tragi Slam By Broth Officers Death By Bullets Fired By Brother Policemen

By ARCHIE WATERS

All Harlem and the country join ed with the sports world this wee in mourning the tragic death of crack basketeer member of th world-famous Renaissance profession al basketball team, Johnny Holt.

Holt, who left the ace hoopster to become a policeman in April 1938 was killed in a hail of bullets di rected at him by two fellow police men, Sergeant Arthur McLoughlin and Patrolman Peter Di Giorgio both white, who had mistaken him for a burglar in the hallway of 23 Bradhurst avenue, Monday night.

The tragedy, which was investi gated by Assistant District Attorne; Jacob Rosenbloom and Deputy Chie Inspector John DeMarino bega with the shrieking of a woman ten ant of 226 Bradhurst avenue that burglar was about. Holt, who als lives in an apartment at that addres with his wife and three children grabbed up his revolver and rushed out into the hallway where it is said he espied the intruder.

Pursuing the escaping marauder Holt followed him into 234 Brad hurst avenue and chased him up the fifth floor of that tenement house firing at him. The man escaped over the roof. Clad in white shirt and slacks Holt was leaving when he heard a command:

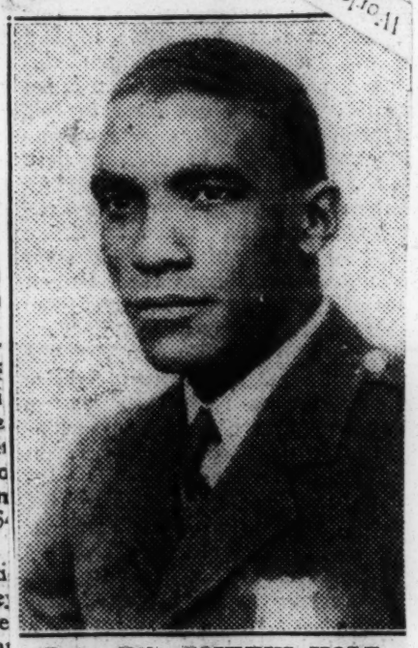
"Stop! Or I'll fire."

Mistaken For Burglar

Swinging about at the top of the stairs he saw below him in the dim light the uniforms of two brother policemen, who had rushed to that address after a neighbor had tele phoned. The two white policemen thinking Holt was an armed burglar —the former basketeer's revolver glinted in the light—fired when Holt whirled to identify himself.

Holt fell from three bullets on the left side of his chest. Attending physician Dressner of Gabrini Hospital pronounced him dead.

The slain man's basketball history looms very large in the annals of sport, and throws the spotlight on the command appearances made by him each semester to Stuyvesant High School, when he was always introduced by the coaches there to the incoming would-be basketball players as the outstanding courtman that institution had produced.



Late Ptl. JOHNNY HOLT

Though born in North Carolina Holt lived most of his life in Harlem. Attending the schools here he was a popular graduate of Stuyvesant High School. In 1928 he was named to the all-scholastic list and held the record for the highest number of points scored. The record was broken in 1932 by the great Lou Bender of Columbia University. Then again, from 1927 to 1933, as a member of the New York Collegiate team, he helped win its 9 straight games of 100 played.

So excellent was his playing that a call to join in 1930 the Renaissance quintet was won by him. Eight years later he sadly left it to take up a new duty—policing the streets of Harlem.

Star player on the police team, Johnny Holt was one of the main members on the arrangements committee with Frank Steele, Al Lind and Frank Caffey, in the benefit for Joe Campbell, scheduled for the end of this month.

Tribute By Bob Douglas

Informed of the shocking occurrence later on Monday, Bob Douglas, manager of the "Renny's" ever since it was formed and who has seen all types of players come and go, paid high tribute to his former "boy".

"Of all the men I've handled," said he, tears streaming down his face "he was one of the greatest I've had the opportunity to call one of my boys."

A touch of irony was added to the occasion when it was learned that Holt had visited Douglas at the latter's office earlier in the day, and also had joshed with friends playing on the floor of the Renaissance Casino concerning oldtime players versus today's brand. Sunday he had played in two games for the police department.

The policeman-basketeer is survived by a wife, Olive, by twin sons, age 4, and an older son, 8.

$100 Hero Award Given By Paper To Harlem Policeman; Honorable Mention For The Late Johnny Holt

Two Harlem policemen were honored this week by the Daily News, one receiving the $100 award and the other honorable mention, posthumously. The first was Patrolman Lawrence Grogan, white, who spied two robbers, a quarter hour before midnight on St. Valentine's Day, rifling the cash register of a drug store at 2479 Seventh avenue.

Knowing the proprietors, Morris Portugal and Abraham Honig and recognizing the robber as a stranger he entered the store. A rumpus in the back room attracted his attention, but as he had one robber reaching for the ceiling he called to the others to come out. They did. Quickly recognizing their advantage they flung themselves at him. One of the robbers, identified later as Orlando Crawford, fired at the officer, hitting him in the left forearm. Undaunted, Grogan snatched the offending revolver and chased the owner and his companions out of the store to the sidewalk where the get-away car was waiting. Crawford jumped in and was whirled away. The officer commandeered a taxi and raced after them to Lenox avenue where they turned south at 140th street, he forced the car to the curb and arrested Crawford and his brother, Homer, driver of the get-away car.

Three days later the other two of the four robbers were captured and identified as John Bussey and Kenneth Nunes. Officer Grogan was incapacitated by his wound for 11 days.

In 1931 Grogan received honorable mention and last week he received the $100 award. He has been on the force for 12 years and the last 9 of them at the 32nd Precinct.

The honorable mention went posthumously to the late Patrolman John Holt, Negro officer who was mistaken for a fleeing robber and fatally shot by brother officers from a neighboring precinct. It was also on a holiday, Lincoln's Birthday, that Johnnie Holt gave chase to a robber seen leaving an apartment across the hall from the one in which he, his wife and three small children lived. He was injured twice in the chase before he emptied his service revolver in the thief's direction, three of the bullets lodging in the left leg. Brother officers summoned to the scene called on Holt to drop his gun. When he turned with gun in hand in the attempt to identify himself he was instantly killed by bullets from the officers' guns.

He was buried from the St. Philip's P. E. Church on West 134th street with full honors accorded an Inspector. Mayor LaGuardia, Police Commissioner Valentine, and other city officials were in the funeral cortege.

NEGRO POLICE NOT IN INWOOD

None Ever Appointed, Although Several Are Eligible

OCT 19 1940

INWOOD, L. I.—In a recent meeting of citizens of this community, it was revealed that in spite of the some 20,000 Negro residents of Nassau County, there was not one Negro policeman attached to the Nassau County Police Department.

Although many Negroes have successfully passed the police exams and have been placed on the list, none have ever received an appointment it was said. It was also revealed that in the case of the slaying of Patrolman Shaw, a colored policeman would have been in better position to learn the true facts of the case and most likely to secure vital information for the department.

In other sections of the state, it was revealed, where Negroes are largely populated, there are colored police whose records have proven them an asset to their local departments.

When the Nassau Coounty P. D. lets down its barriers and gives the Negro a chance to join its ranks, they will not only aid in doing away with racial friction, but cause a better respect for the department it was said by one of the speakers.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
December 17, 1940

WHY NOT APPOINT NEGRO POLICEMEN?

Some of the leading Negroes of Charlotte are urging the appointment of Negro policemen to the end of bringing about a more effective enforcement of the law among those of their race.

The arguments for such a course are strong and abundant. Those against it are minor and trivial.

This step, in The Observer's judgment, should not only be prosecuted by the Negroes who are interested in helping their own people and curbing the appalling volume of crime, especially homicides, among them, but by the more influential factors of the white citizenship of this community.

Whatever pressure needs to be brought to bear upon the City Council in order to initiate this experiment should be instantly and forcefully forthcoming.

Not only for the naming of a single Negro policeman, but at least two, and probably more as conditions will later warrant. Two, however, should be a minimum to start with as it would be in the interest of more efficient service, and safety for such officers themselves, that they work, more or less, together.

We believe this innovation will quickly prove its value.

If for no more active service than to give reliable information as to crime and criminals, a Negro policeman would be of invaluable service to the department.

And if the ideal type of man or men can be found and employed as patrolmen to serve in the more densely Negro populated areas of the city, it is obvious that they would be able to do much in the way of preserving law and order and, if not actually to prevent crime, materially to assist, at least, in assembling the evidence necessary for convictions of criminals.

Let the good people of Charlotte voice their approval of the enterprise started by these Negro leaders of the city whose interest in the matter is inspired by their own desires and ideals for their people and who are loyal, constructive and dutiful in their devotion to any cause or movement looking to racial improvement.

They have a worthy, intelligent and civicly valuable suggestion and The Observer strongly feels and contends that their appeals should be answered and that this, or these, appointments of Negro policemen should be made by the City Council.

Charlotte, N. C. News
December 18, 1940

Negro Officers

They Would Bring Racial Understanding to the Job

Whether the addition of two or more Negro patrolmen to the police force would aid in curbing crime in Charlotte we don't know, of course. The policy hasn't been tried here, and experience is the only test.

But the probabilities certainly favor it. Other Southern cities have used Negro policemen successfully. And it is reasonable to suppose that a Negro will have a better understanding of his race than a white man. Many white people like to boast of knowing the Negro thoroughly. But it is doubtful that they do. The Negro is secretive in dealing with the white man, and knows how to mislead him. Certainly, the average white policeman has little understanding of him.

This matter of understanding is important in dealing with crime. It is important from the standpoint of information, for often valuable tips will be forthcoming for the man who has the confidence and sympathy of the Negroes generally. And it is important also from the standpoint of discovering the making of a crime before it happens and so heading it off.

Charlotte, N. C., News
December 13, 1940

Negro Cops Advocated

Community Crusaders Call Meeting

A mass meeting of Negro citizens to support a movement for discouraging crime among Negroes by the employment of Negro policemen for that service and the employment of a Negro truant officer for Negro school children, was announced today by Henry Houston, president of the Community Crusaders, which sponsors the movement.

The meeting will be held Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock at Grace AME Zion Church, and Dr. J. S. Nathaniel Tross will be the speaker. President Houston explained that the high crime rate among Negroes in Charlotte is a matter of grave concern to the Negroes who are ambitious for racial betterment and it is their belief that their program will work for an improvement.

Spartanburg, S. C. Journal
December 21, 1940

Negro Officers Considered

City council of Charlotte, according to the papers of that city, is considering the question of adding several negro patrolmen to the police force to aid in curbing crime.

In recalling that other Southern cities have used negro policemen successfully the Charlotte News cites that the advantage of the innovation should lie in the fact that a negro has a better understanding of his race than a white man. To some degree the negro generally is secretive in dealing with whites, and this applies with more significance when it comes to a white officer of the law. An officer who has the confidence and friendship of negroes, whatever the color of his skin, stands naturally in better position to receive tips or encounter clues bearing on crime committed, and that is where the negro policeman could be of valuable assistance.

BELIEVE RACE COPS WOULD CURB CRIME WAVE IN CHARLOTTE

Courier
Pittsburgh Pa.

DEC 28 1940

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 26—Announcement was made Tuesday by Henry Houston, president of the Community Crusaders, an organization that has been conducting a valiant and effective battle against crime among the colored population of the city, that a mass meeting has been called to convene at 4 P. M. Sunday at Grace A. M. E. Zion Church, at which a movement will be launched for the employment of colored policemen to patrol and preserve order in the Negro sections of Charlotte, also a colored truant officer to work for better attendance in the schools.

During the meeting at which Dr. Nathaniel Tross will be the principal speaker, plans will be adopted for organizing all citizens to work for the development of sentiment in favor of employing Negro officers. The high crime rate in this city, Houston said in connection with his announcement, is a matter of grave concern to the better class of citizens; that they have worried and worked over the problem a great deal and have reached the conclusion that much could be accomplished by having Negro policemen to patrol the Negro sections and work to prevent crime.

The juvenile delinquency problem has also given citizens very deep concern, he added, and many believe that the large number of children of school age who are on the streets instead of in the schools has much to do with this condition. It is their belief, he stated, that if there were a Negro truant officer who would see to it that all children who were supposed to attend school are there every day, there would be a substantial decrease in the recurrence of trouble with the young people.

NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR PRAISES PROGRESS OF NEGRO

Globe
Independent
Nashville Tenn

Race's Artistic Advancement Lauded in Talk with Miss Etta Moten.

DEC 20 1940

RALEIGH, N. C., Dec. 12—Governor Clyde R. Hoey expressed great appreciation for the progress which the Negro people of the nation and his state are making along all lines, but particularly artistically, in a brief interview which he held with Etta Moten, the singer, in the executive offices here last week. Miss Moten, accompanied by W. R. Johnson, executive secretary of Negro Work in the State Department of Public Welfare, had called to meet the governor. The charming visitor expressed her appreciation of the growing liberality and fairness which the state of North Carolina is exhibiting, declaring that North Carolina could well serve as a pattern for some states of the deep South, though she declared that in her travels, she found improvement in racial relationships all over the South. She hoped, however, for far greater social, economic, and educational benefits to the race, she said.

Miss Moten, who had given two concerts in Raleigh, one for St. Paul church, and one for St. Augustine's College, was en route to other engagements in the state, after which she was scheduled for Charleston, S. C., Aliquippa, Pa., Franklin, Va., and points in Indiana, Louisiana, and Texas. In the latter two states, she sings at Alexandria, La., Dec. 12; Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 13; Galveston, Texas, Dec. 16; Beaumont, Texas, Dec. 18; and at Wiley College.

Three Negroes Being Employed in Highway Patrol Setup.

The Union
2-11-40

Ohio Department of Highways Columbus—Three jobs have been provided for Negroes by Col. Robert S. Beightler, director, Ohio department of highways, in the headquarters of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, through a readjustment of personnel. This is the first time that Negroes have ever been made members of the highway patrol.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Employment has been set up for a clerk, an assistant storekeeper and a caretaker.

Governor Bricker wrote he had "read with amazement the copy of the letter which was forwarded to Mr. Chester K. Gillespie" by Superintendent Black, which related to the appointment of Harold Johnson of Cleveland to the patrol. The Governor added:

"During this administration he (Superintendent Black) has never been authorized to make a statement such as is contained in the letter to Chester K. Gillespie, and the fact that such a statement violates both the spirit and the letter of the Ohio constitution and the statutes of his State

"It is an established fact that this administration at the present time has more colored people employed with the State than any previous administration. They are among our best and most useful employees. It has never been the policy of this administration to discriminate against any individual because of race."

At the same time that Governor Bricker wrote his letter, Colonel Beightler wired Cleveland Negroes to the effect that "Black did not consult with me regarding Johison's candidacy for highway patrol," and that the "policy of this administration is not to discriminate against any individual, regardless of race."

The jobs of clerk, assistant storekeeper and caretaker which are being filled by Negroes in the patrol will give the colored race representation for the first time, and will be in line with the policy of both Governor Bricker and Colonel Beightler to recognize the Negro wherever and whenever it is found their capabilities qualify them for the position possible

Ohio Man Shows Pennsylvanians The Way To Obtain State Post

The Pittsburgh Courier
2-17-40

OUT in Ohio a 25-year-old colored man will be appointed to the Ohio State Highway Patrol, contingent upon his passing a physical examination and obtaining a passing grade in the patrol school of instruction which started on Friday at Ohio State University. Since he has passed similar examinations recently, there is no hitch anticipated in that direction.

The Governor of Ohio has approved the appointment by the director of the Ohio Department of Highways, of which the highway patrol is the law enforcement division.

Ohio will, therefore, become the first state to appoint a colored man a member of the State Highway Patrol.

There is just this one factor in the pending appointment to which we desire to direct attention; namely, the prospective appointee stands near the top on the present Ohio civil service eligibility list.

Colored Pennsylvanians who believe that they have the required mental and physical qualifications to be members of the Pennsylvania State Police ought to take the examination, when offered, do their best to pass it creditably, and in this way lay the groundwork for constructive protest when they are passed over in favor of others lower down on the list.

Unless we are willing to do this, we ought to stop complaining. And the same advice goes for all other positions for which an examination is required and to which no colored men have been appointed by Pennsylvania State and municipal authorities.

Three Negroes Employed In Highway Patrol Setup

TOLEDO, Ohio—(SNS)—
Three jobs have been provided for Negroes by Col. Robert S Beightler, director, Ohio Department of highways, in the headquarters of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, through a readjustment of personnel. This is the first time that Negroes have ever been made members of the highway patrol.

Employment has been set up for a clerk, an assistant storekeeper, and a caretaker.

The patrol personnel adjustment came when the attention of Gov. Beightler was called to a letter written by Superintendent Lynn Black of the Patrol, that Negroes would not be employed by him in the patrol organization.

Both Governor Bricker and Colonel Beightler ordered an immediate inquiry into the situation when Superintendent Black's letter was brought to their attention.

Governor Bricker wrote he had "read with amazement the copy of the letter which was forwarded to Mr. Chester K. Gillespie" by Superintendent Black, which related to the appointment of Harold Johnson of Cleveland to the patrol. The Governor added:

"During this administration he (Superintendent Black) has never been authorized to make a statement such as is contained in the letter to Chester K. Gillespie, and the fact is that such a statement violates both the spirit and the letter of the Ohio constitution and the statutes of this State.

The jobs of clerk, assistant storekeeper and caretaker which are being filled by Negroes in the patrol will give the colored race representation for the first time.

John W. Bricker and Colonel

Civic League To Fight For Police Captain

North Philly League Praised For "Red Car" Campaign

NOV 7 1940

The North Philadelphia Civic League will continue its campaign for equality for Negroes in the Department of Public Safety until the department heads see fit to appoint a Negro police captain, at least three police sergeants and more Negro patrolmen and firemen.

This was revealed last Sunday by Dr. John K. Rice, president of the League, following a suggestion by Attorney Robert N. C. Nix, who was one of the principal speakers at the League's political forum at McDowell Memorial Church, 21st and Columbia avenue, last Sunday.

Nix lauded the Civic League's campaign which resulted in the assigning of six Negroes to the "red car" squad, but said that the fight should not end there.

Other speakers were Attorney Raymond Pace Alexander, who delivered a short address in behalf of the Republican Party; Adolphus Lewis, who defined the term "democracy"; Geo. A. Hawkins and Rev. Arthur E. Rankin, pastor of McDowell Church.

Colored Fireman Is Elected Member Of Pension Fund Board Of Directors Here

First Negro To Serve On Board Defeats Opponent By 103 Votes In City-Wide Election

JOSEPH A. MARSHALL

Hoseman at Engine Co. 11, who was elected to Board of Directors of the Fireman's Pension Fund last week.

Joseph A. Marshall, 311 E. Upsal street a hoseman attached to Engine Co. 11 South street near 11th was elected to the Board of Directors of the Firemen's Pension Fund last week, defeating his opponent for the office by 103 votes.

Marshall, the first Negro to serve on the Board, polled 1163 votes in a bitterly contested city-wide election.

A native Philadelphian, Marshall ran on the ticket headed by Battalion Chief Charles A. Gill, the candidate on which ticket were all elected.

Marshall was elected for a two-year term. He has been a fireman for 6 years, and has served four years as a trustee of the Fireman's Union, Local 22, he has been a member of the Legislative and Day Off committee of the local, is now serving as a member of the by-law committee of the Pension Fund and is house delegates for the union at Engine Co. 11.

He is married and has three children, and is a loyal supporter of Chief Gill, who "broke him in" as a rookie fireman, years ago.

Gill is familiar with Engine Co. 11 having served this station as hoseman lieutenant and captain before his elevation.

Negro Police Slighted On Red Car Duty

Apparent Policy Throughout City To Refuse Negroes Red Car Tour

Two weeks ago at the 32nd District police station, 65th and Woodland avenue, seven new squad cars—three more than formerly at the station—were put into service. However, no Negro policemen were assigned to the cars.

And that's the situation in every police district throughout the city.

On the regular squad men's night off, other whites from another district were transferred for the night to take their places.

In addition, "straight beats" of three to four blocks had been "created."

He explained that a "straight beat" was all on one street, without a turn at cross streets. Apparently, he said, all the Negro policemen attached to the station have been shifted to these newly-created beats.

NOT ONE

ALL who are old enough to be interested in reading editorials have heard the story we are about to tell. We repeat it because it seems to us so appropriate. It is the story of two churches on opposite sides of the street. The members of one church were singing "Will There Be Any Stars In My Crown?", and the members of the other at the same time were singing the refrain of another hymn, "No, Not One."

The Civil Service, after throwing out the results of one examination and holding another, certified 102 men for appointment as policemen. TWO WERE COLORED—JUST TWO. And a super-physical check, although the men had passed a physical check-up before being permitted to take the examination eliminated 27 of those certified. Of course, the two colored were included in this 27.

Much is being said about the fact that politics had nothing to do with the selection of the 102. Maybe, that's true. Granted that it is; what we need now is some formula to eliminate the racial angle.

Two hundred and forty-eight (248) more men are going to be appointed. It will be interesting to see how many colored men will survive this unusual physical check-up, said to be equal to that through which the famous Northwest Mounted Police are put.

52 Policemen Sworn In; Not One Colored

"Unwritten Rule" Is Barrier Against Negro Patrolmen On Police Dept. "Red Car" Service

Colored Cops Must "Pound Beats" In All Kinds Of Weather, While White Colleagues Ride

By ORRIN C. EVANS

Despite the fact that at least 95 per cent of the Negro members of the police department are capable of driving automobiles—

In spite of constant professions of equitable treatment for all members of the police force on the part of those forces that direct and control the Philadelphia police department—

There is, apparently, an unwritten rule that no Negro be included in the crews of the police radio cars (red cars) that patrol the streets.

Some of the larger, or busier, police districts have as many as seven red cars assigned to the district, but all of the crews are white.

Every district has at least three such cars—reserved for the exclusive use of white patrolmen attached to the district.

Come rain, sleet, hail or scorching sun, the Negro patrolman must patrol a beat—there's no red car duty for him, no inside clerical work, and in recent years, they've even decreased the number of Negro members of the police force who work in the police stations as turnkeys.

Captain Selects Crew

The captain of each district selects the red car crews—but he merely follows orders, expressed or implied, that come down from higher-ups. And he never selects Negro crew members.

A few years ago two Negro patrolmen, Braxton and Mobley, worked in a red car in the 37th district (4th street and Snyder avenue) for a short time. Since that time, however, there have been no Negroes assigned to red car duty.

Recently there were not enough white patrolmen available for red car duty at the 65th street and Woodland avenue police station. Rather than assign a Negro to the red car, white patrolmen were temporarily transferred from another district to man the radio cars.

Negro members of the police department, rapidly decreasing in numbers, find themselves stymied in any efforts to correct the condition. They can't make effective complaints, because they realize that too much agitation will result in subtle reprisals.

So they just swallow their chagrin—and try to bear it.

HORSES Did Not Object To Colored Policemen - - - Who Does?

IN this week's TRIBUNE one will find a picture of colored officers in the police department riding horses. For a moment at least they were mounted police.

THE TRIBUNE has no objection to police officers of color riding horseback. In fact, so strongly do we approve the gesture that we want the temporary arrangement for the Elks parade last Sunday made permanent.

If colored officers can act as mounted police during an Elks parade on Sunday, why in the name of all that is decent they can't ride those same horses on Monday? Certainly the horses did not die from distemper because colored men rode them. And from the performance of the horses they made no objection to having colored men on their backs. Since the horses liked it, we wonder who raises the objection.

PHILLY GETS NEGRO COPS IN BANDIT CARS AFTER LONG FIGHT

OCT 27 1940

PHILADELPHIA Oct. 24—(ANP)—After several years of protesting against the practice of keeping colored patrolmen out of bandit cars (popularly called the "red cars"), the Philadelphia police last week about-faced and named six Negro officers for motor service.

In ceremonies in the office of the director of public safety, James Malone, the men were told that:

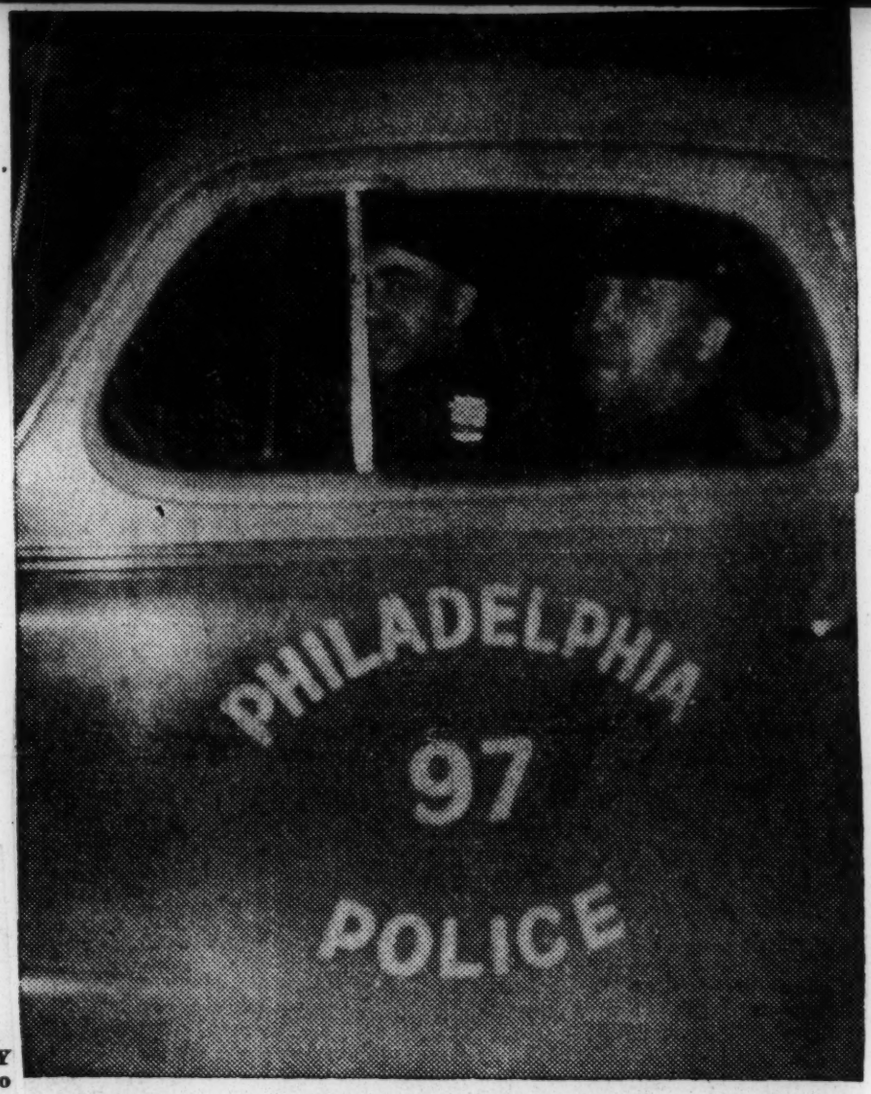
"I am very glad to give you a chance to show the public what you can do."

Present at the ceremonies were Assistant Director of Public Safety Herbert E. Millen, Dr. John K. Rice, president of the North Philadelphia Civic league; Arthur H. Fausett, school principal; Lenerte Roberts, realtor, and other representative citizens.

Director Malone explained that the new assignments were no political gestures.

OCT 17 1940

CHIEF WESLEY WILLIAMS, who directs a battalion composed of several fire companies in the business district of New York. He started as a rookie fireman and passed successive Civil Service exams to become lieutenant, captain, and now battalion chief. The New York Fire Department boasts that it has 'no Negro firemen". Chief Williams spoke in Philadelphia on Sunday. —(Tribune photo by Mosley).



Officers James Reid and Norman Tyree drive off from City Hall Plaza on their first tour via bandit cars.

Colored Patrolmen On Red Cars Forward Step In Police Bureau

OCT 17 1940

Philadelphia Inquirer

THE ASSIGNMENT of several colored patrolmen to man "red cars" in the Police Bureau of the Department of Public Safety is a tribute to the willingness of Mayor Lamberton and of Superintendent of Police Malone to take steps to rectify obvious inequalities within the Bureau.

Equally so does the assignment of these men illustrate the potency of an intelligently stimulated public opinion, backed up by the press.

3 More Negroes Put On Red Car Duty In City

OCT 31 1940

Philadelphia Pa.

Two Veterans, 1 Rookie Assume Duties At 20th and Fitzwater Streets

Three Negro policemen—two veterans and one rookie—have been assigned to the Radio Squad in South Philadelphia. They are attached to the First District station, at 20th and Fitzwater streets, and assumed their new duties on Monday.

Patrolmen George Dennis, a 20-year-man, and Joseph Whetts are the veterans, and Reginald Scott was appointed to the police force seven weeks ago. Thirtieth Ward residents will see them riding around in "red cars" from now on.

The assigning of Dennis, Whetts and Scott brings the total of Negroes serving with the "red car" unit up to nine. Three weeks ago six men attached to the 23rd District station at 19th and Oxford streets, received similar assignments.

"The department is happy to be able to give you men this opportunity to serve with the Radio Squad," Assistant Director Herbert E. Millen told Dennis, Whetts and Scott in his office at City Hall.

Captain Black is responsible for the assigning of Dennis and Whetts, and Assistant Director Millen suggested Scott.

Also present at the brief ceremony were Superintendent of Police Sutton, and Detective Hillary Johnston.

Officers Assigned To Red Cars

These are the patrolmen of color who on Monday were assigned to "red cars", following a "send-off" in the office of the director of public safety. Left to right, above, are: Francis Moten, Herbert E. Millen, assistant director of public safety, James Reid, Pete Wilmore, Director James H. Malone, Ira Graham, Robert Fouche, and Norman Tyree.

Negro Cops In Red Cars For First Time

OCT 17 1940

Six Negro policemen are now serving with the Motor Bandit Squad — the "red car" division — and soon there will be Negro police captains, street and desk sergeants and colored citizens have been assured that any discrimination existing in the police and fire departments will be abolished.

Director of Public Safety James H. Malone and Assistant Director Herbert E. Millen, informed week in and week out of discriminatory conditions which appear to be traditional in the police and fire departments, have promised to "clean house".

Their first step in that direction was the assigning of the six officers from North Philadelphia's 23rd District, at 19th and Oxford streets, to the Motor Bandit Division. The men received the assignments on Monday, and the two working the first shift drove out of City Hall's courtyard in a "red car" as approximately 300 persons watched the "unusual sight".

Competent Officers

The sextet of officers was selected by virtue of experience and past records by the Captain of the District. They are James Reid, Ira Graham, Francis Moten, Peter Wilmore, Robert Fouche and Norman Tyree.

"I am very happy to be able to give you men an opportunity to show the public what you can do," Malone told the men collectively.

"We are looking for you to serve the public in the fine, efficient manner that I know you can," was Millen's way of advising and complimenting the officers.

Just a Beginning

"This is just a beginning," declared Dr. John K. Rice, president of the North Philadelphia Civic League, which has been pushing the campaign to end discrimination in the departments.

"Directors Malone and Millen have assured the Civic League that they will do everything in their power to end discrimination and give Negroes an opportunity to become captains and sergeants, and we believe them."

Definite assurance that the men would be assigned to the "red car" division was given a committee of civic leaders by Malone and Millen on Friday at City Hall, and Millen reiterated the fact on Sunday at a mass meeting staged by the North Philadelphia Civic League, attended by approximately 500 persons, at McDowell Memorial Church, 21st street and Columbia avenue.

Committee Cites Bias Cases

The committee which met with Malone and Millen on Friday was composed of Dr. Rice, Arthur Huff Fauset, principal of the Frederick Douglass School; Dr. Harry J. Greene, president of the Philadelphia Branch of the N. A. A. C. P.; Dr. John W. Shirley, of the Ethiopian World Federation, and John A. Saunders, representing the TRIBUNE.

With Dr. Rice and Fauset as spokesmen, the committee cited various cases of segregation in the fire and police departments and called upon Malone and Millen to rectify the situation.

Malone admitted knowing that there are no Negroes on the traffic squad, or motor bandit squad, and acknowledged the fact that there are no Negro inspectors, captains or sergeants in uniform.

Malone Hits Jim Crow

Explaining that he had no power to appoint inspectors, captains and sergeants because of the Civil Service Commission, Malone said, however, that he would do everything in his power to end all apparent discrimination on account of race and color.

"Gentlemen, you cannot expect me to rectify, in the short space of time I have been in this position. a condition which has been existing for the past 30 or 40 years," Malone said.

"But I assure you that given ample time and opportunity I will do everything possible to give you what you want. I will start by assigning six Negro policemen to 'red car' duty on Monday. I will investigate the fire situation and if I find any discrimination, I will end it then and there."

Millen Lauds League

One of the principal speakers at Sunday's meeting, Millen lauded the work of the Civic League, and said that the "red car" assignments were just a start.

"I have been fighting for such things ever since I have been Assistant Director, and I was very happy when the committee, led by Dr. Rice and Mr. Fauset, met with the Director and myself to express your thoughts. The Civic League is to be complimented for its unselfish action and it should be proud to have a man like Dr. Rice for its leader."

Lieutenant Samuel J. Battle, who was to deliver the principal address at the meeting, was unable to attend. The main speaker was Battalion Chief Wesley Williams, of the New York Fire Bureau.

Chief Williams, who, incidentally, has no Negroes in his command, spoke on the unlimited opportunities offered Negro firemen in New York.

He urged Negroes to continue their fight for equal recognition in Philadelphia, and said that when it becomes commonplace to see colored men supervising whites, racial segregation and discrimination will end.

Magistrate Joseph H. Rainey lauded the Civic League's campaign, but said that Negroes in North Philadelphia were not after "Election red car officers". He elucidated by urging the League to see to it that the six men were not relieved of the "red car" duty after Election Day.

Dr. Rice said that the League's fight for equality in the police and fire bureaus was not limited to North Philadelphia alone.

City-wide Fight Urged

"We want the same thing in South and West Philadelphia, and the North Philadelphia Civic League is willing to assist any group working toward that end."

Other speakers were: Dr. Harry J. Greene, who read a telegram sent by the N. A. A. C. P. to President Roosevelt condemning a newspaper release which asserted that Walter White and A. Philip Randolph had condoned segregation of Negroes in the U. S. Army and Navy; Girard Wilmore, Rev. Arthur E. Rankin, pastor of McDowell Church, and John Drew, of Darby.

Director Malone has consented to speak at a similar meeting to be held on Sunday at the church, under the auspices of the League. Lieutenant Battle will be the principal speaker.

POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN- 1940

PENNSYLVANIA

When Policemen Meet

OCT 24 1940

Philadelphia Tribune

Phila, Pa.,

Without any letup in its campaign to open more doors to Negroes in the Civil Service branches of the city government, the North Philadelphia Civic League heard Lieutenant Samuel J. Battle of the New York Police Department on Sunday. At left is Sergeant Robert Forgy, who represented Director of Public Safety Malone; center, Dr. John K. Rice, president of the league.—(Tribune photo by Mosley).

Appointed Assistant Chief Of Knoxville Jr. Police

KNOXVILLE—(ANP)—Knoxville's police department is receiving praises for the recognition shown to the race in the junior police division, when Melvin Scruggs was appointed assistant chief with the authority to take charge of the entire force when necessary.

The junior police force is a division of the police safety department, composed of approximately 250 boys of both races and authorized to assist in the enforcement of safety laws. The appointment of Scruggs was announced at the regular appointment time by Captain Elmer M. Dykes, who is in charge of the junior division. Scruggs is the son of Policeman Ernest Scruggs, veteran officer of the Knoxville police department.

Knoxville Names Race Youth To The Police Force

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., May 23—(By S. M. Clark Jr., for ANP)—Knoxville's police department is receiving praises for the recognition shown to the race in the junior police division, when Melvin Scruggs was appointed assistant chief with the authority to take charge of the entire force when necessary.

The junior police force is a division of the police safety department, composed of approximately 250 boys of both races trained and authorized to assist in the enforcement of safety laws. The appointment of Scruggs was announced at the regular appointment time by Capt. Elmer M. Dykes, who is in charge of the junior division.

Scruggs is the son of Policeman Ernest Scruggs, veteran officer of the Knoxville police department. Young Scruggs was recently awarded the first prize for writing the best essay on safety. The entire junior force participated in the contest.

MAYOR CUMMINGS ASKED TO CHOOSE NEGRO POLICEMEN

Petition Is Made By Organization Of College Women, New Group In City

NOV 29 1940

The Nashville branch of the National Association of College Women was organized in March of this year and has been holding meetings once a month. It is hoped that these meetings may be held alternately at Fisk University, A. and I. State College, and Meharry Medical College.

Among the objectives of the Association is that of fostering among Negro college women a greater interest in problems of concern to Negroes. Cooperation of other civic organizations interested in the improvement of racial conditions is earnestly desired and the NACW extends a cordial invitation to all Negro women college graduates to become members and join in these efforts.

At present steps are being taken toward securing adequate protection in North Nashville through the appointment of Negro policemen, and letters have been sent to Mayor Cummings who replies that the matter will receive his consideration. Letters have been written also to Mr. H. H. Bailey of the Nashville Coach Company seeking to have Negro drivers placed on the Jefferson Street bus line when it is installed. The replies to these letters have been brief but indicate that the efforts of the Association are not being ignored, and it is sincerely hoped that in time these and other projects sponsored by the NACW of Nashville will receive favorable action by the organizations concerned.

Mrs. Mayme U. Foster is president of the Nashville Branch of the NACW and anyone interested in becoming a member may secure from her any information desired by writing her at Fisk University or telephoning her at 6-6807. The Association hopes for the affiliation and cooperation of the Negro college women of Nashville in forwarding its program.

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
March 18, 1940

Negro Petition For Police Job In Court Today

Judge Way to Hear Arguments; Violation of Constitution Charged

The petition of Ernest Wright, Negro, for a ruling on the right of Negroes to take municipal civil service examinations for appointment to the police force will come up in Federal District Court here today before Judge Luther B. Way.

Two questions are involved in today's proceedings—the matter of jurisdiction and whether the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution has been violated, as is contended by Wright.

City Attorney Alfred Anderson will move to dismiss the petition. In a brief filed with the District Court clerk he sets forth that no complaint was filed by Wright until November 28, 1939, over a month after the examinations had been held and the records closed; that the matter is out of the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. and that no constitutional rights have been violated.

He contends the plaintiff's remedy was by mandamus before the examinations and not by injunction after the examinations were over and the records closed.

Entered in November

The suit was entered last November in the Federal Court by Wright after he had filed an application to take the civil service examination October 21 for police patrolman, but was not permitted to do so. It was filed by Frederic J. Thorogood, Negro attorney, against C. Morar Barry, chairman of the Civil Service Commission; W. Taylor Johnsor and E. R. Wilcox, members of the commission; Armistead Borland secretary, and City Manager Charles B. Borland.

The complainant contended the denial was solely because of race and color, and asked a declaratory judgment of the plaintiff's rights and a permanent injunction restraining the commission and city manager from certifying successful candidates who passed the October 21 examination.

In his answer, denying the violation of any Constitutional rights City Attorney Anderson set forth that the establishment and maintenance of an efficient police department in the City of Norfolk did not involve rights or equities under the Fourteenth Amendment, but was a right expressly reserved to the State of Virginia and delegated to the City of Norfolk for the protection of its citizens.